

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 /050 W

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FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1593

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMSIXTHFLT

CMC WASHDC

UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MARINE CORP. COMMANDANT GENERAL LEWIS H.

WILSON AND MRS. WILSON TO MARSEILLE.

1. GENERAL AND MRS. WILSON ARRIVED BY OFFICIAL AIRCRAFT AT 09:00 SEPT. 7 AND DEPARTED 10:00 SEPT. 10. THE COMMANDANT S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO BRIEF AND OTHERWISE BE IN CONTACT WITH THE 34TH MAU (SIXTH FLEET MARINE AMPHIBIOUS COMMAND) ON BOARD THE USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2) THEN IN PORT.

2. CONSUL GENERAL RALPH MEIMA AND A PARTY OF SENIOR OFFICERS FROM THE USS IWO JIMA MET THE WILSONS AT MARSEILLE S AIRPORT AND ESCORTED THEM BACK TO THE AIRPORT UPON THEIR DEPARTURE. THE AIRCRAFT ARRIVED AND DEPARTED ON SCHEDULE, AND THE OTHER PORTIONS OF THE PROGRAMS FOR GENERAL AND MRS. WILSON WERE CONDUCTED IN TIMELY FASHION ACCORDING TO PLAN.

3. GENERAL AND MRS. WILSON WERE VERY INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING ANY PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROJECTS THAT COULD BE MOUNTED WITHIN THE BRIEF VISIT AND SHORT NOTIFICATION TIME. THE CONSULATE GENERAL THEREFORE ARRANGED A COURTESY CALL BY GENERAL WILSON ON REGIONAL PREFET VACHEL. THE SAME WAS ATTEMPTED WITH REGARD
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TO DEPUTE MAIRE DEFFERRE BUT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO SCHEDULE CONFLICTS.

ON THE EVENING OF SEPT 8, GENERAL AND MRS. WILSON WERE THE GUESTS OF HONOR AT A RECEPTION ORGANIZED BY CONSUL GENERAL AND MRS. MEIMA TO MARK THE VISIT OF GENERAL AND MRS. WILSON AND OF THE USS IWO JIMA. SOME 120 PERSONS ATTENDED THE RECEPTION

INCLUDING REGIONAL PREFET VOCHEL, AN ADJOINT MAYOR OF MARSEILLE, RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF THE AREA, AND LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF CULTURAL AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES.

4. THE WILSONS SEEMED PLEASED WITH THEIR MARSEILLE VISIT. THEIR PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH A BROAD RANGE OF MARSEILLAIS WERE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND CAN HAVE HAD ONLY A VERY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE IMPACT ON THE US IMAGE IN THIS AREA. COPIES OF THE FAVORABLE PRESS REPORTS THAT FOLLOWED THE VISIT ARE BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY TO ADDRESSEES. MEIMA

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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